

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 04716 011134Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8880
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 733

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 4716

FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON FROM AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS: STATUS OF PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

REF: A. STATE 285617; B. STATE 286396

1. I HAVE EXAMINED YOUR CABLES UNDER REFERENCE TO SEE IF
I MIGHT CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING FURTHER TO THE U.S. EFFORT TO CON-
TINUE AMERASINGHE AS PRESIDENT OF LOS. FOLLOWING ARE MY
SUGGESTIONS.

2. WE HAD EMPHASIZED IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH SRI LANKA
OFFICIALS HERE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN AMERASINGHE TERMINATING
AS GSL PERMREP, WHILE CONTINUING AS LOS PRESIDENT. HOWEVER,
WE HAVE NEVER HAD A SPECIFIC METHOD TO PROPOSE TO THEM AS TO
HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED. I THEREFORE URGE THAT SUCH
A SCENARIO NOW BE INCLUDED IN THE THIRD COUNTRY REPRESENTATIONS
UNDERWAY TO PRIME MINISTER JAYAWARDENE.

3. IN OUR CONVERSATIONS HERE, AND IN MY COMMUNICATIONS WITH
THE PRIME MINISTER, WE HAVE STRESSED THE APPALLING EFFECT ON
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LOS WHICH COULD BE CAUSED BY AMERASINGHE'S DEPARTURE. I CAN-
NOT GUARANTEE THAT JAYAWARDENE HAS FOCUSED ON EVERY ASPECT
OF THE PROSPECTIVE MELANCHOLY FALLOUT, PARTICULARLY THE DE-
CLINE IN SRI LANKA'S REPUTATION AS A RESPONSIBLE AND MODERATE
MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, BUT
HE CERTAINLY KNOWS THAT US, UK AND AUSTRALIA WOULD BE DIS-
TRESSED. PERHAPS HE HAS ON NARROWER GROUNDS JUDGED THAT SRI

LANKA'S INTERESTS AT LOS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE NEGATIVELY
AFFECTED BY A CHANGE IN THE LOS PRESIDENCY.

4. I BELIEVE YOU ARE ABOLSUTELY ON THE RIGHT TRACK TO URGE
THIRD WORLD AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO MAKE KNOWN TO JAYAWARDENE
THEIR CONCERN OVER AMERASINGHE'S PROSPECTIVE DEPARTURE AND
PRESENT TO HIM A SPECIFIC METHOD BY WHICH AMERASINGHE COULD
BE RETAINED AT LOS. A SPECIAL VISIT BY AMBASSADOR ZULETA
SHOULD BE URGENTLY SOUGHT FOR THIS PURPOSE. AS REGARDS OTHER
COUNTRIES I NOTE THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS NO MISSION IN COLOMBO AND
THAT THEIR AMBASSADOR VISITING FROM NEW DELHI DEPARTED NOVEMBER
30. YOU MAY THEREFORE WISH TO INITIALLY CONCENTRATE YOUR
EFFORTS AMONG THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES.

5. COUNTRIES WITH MISSIONS IN COLOMBO: AUSTRALIA, BANGLA-
DESH, BULGARIA, BURMA, CANADA, PR OF CHINA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
EGYPT, FRANCE, GDR, FRG, THE HOLY SEE, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN,
IRAQ, ITALY, JAPAN, ROK, LIBYA, MALAYSIA, THE NETHERLANDS,
PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, RUMANIA, SWEDEN, THAILAND,
USSR, UK, YUGOSLAVIA.

6. COUNTRIES WHERE SRI LANKA HAS RESIDENT EMBASSIES: AUS-
TRALIA, BELGIUM (EC), BURMA, CANADA, PR OF CHINA, EGYPT,
FRANCE, FRG, INDIA, IRAQ, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, MALAYSIA,
PAKISTAN, PHILLIPPINES, SINGAPORE, SWEDEN, THAILAND,
USSR, UK, UK, USA, YUGOSLAVIA.
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WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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